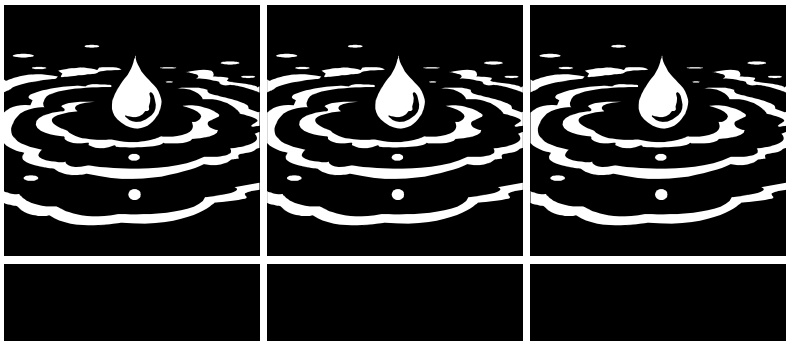
State of California
The California Water Boards

Draft Accomplishments Report
Fiscal Year 2007-2008



October 27-28, 2008

CALIFORNIA
Water Boards
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS

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[1] **Denotes Internal Accomplishments*

Regional Water Boards

North Coast Regional Water Board (1)

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board (2)

Central Coast Regional Water Board (3)

Los Angeles Regional Water Board (4)

Central Valley Regional Water Board (5)

Lahontan Regional Water Board (6)

Colorado River Regional Water Board (7)

Santa Ana Regional Water Board (8)

San Diego Regional Water Board (9)

1 North Coast Regional Water Board
Klamath River Bi-State Workplan

The Klamath River, which flows from Oregon into California, is degraded by sources of pollution in Oregon.

Accomplishment: The states and US EPA developed a shared modeling approach to analyze pollutant loadings, sources, and the pollutant reductions necessary to achieve water quality standards. The modeling has confirmed the importance of reducing nutrient loads in Oregon.

Organizations involved included the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, US EPA Regions 9 and 10, California Klamath River Tribes, stakeholders and the public.

1 North Coast Regional Water Board
Humboldt Redwood Company

Issue: Forest management under the Pacific Lumber/Scotia Pacific Companies resulted in significant pollution and nuisance in five watersheds in the North Coast. Substantial staff resources were used over 10-years for surveillance, enforcement, and development of watershed-wide waste discharge requirements. Ownership and management of those timberlands changed hands as the result of a bankruptcy reorganization to Humboldt Redwood Company.

Accomplishment: The only watershed permits for timber harvesting in California are on two of the five affected watersheds; staff's effort was directed at a seamless transition. Staff developed the documents and schedule for a public hearing and board action to memorialize the ownership change and preserve the continuity of the watershed permits, the existing cleanup and abatement orders, and over 100 timber harvest plans covered under general waste discharge requirements. The smooth transition allowed Humboldt Redwood Company to begin work on the landscape and to continue with the remedial actions specified in the cleanup orders.

1 North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
TMDLs in the Garcia and Shasta Watersheds

The TMDL Action Plans for the Garcia and the Shasta Rivers address pollutants from multiple sources in the watersheds. Implementation at this scale involves significant challenges from building agency credibility to identifying, engaging, and shepherding potentially responsible parties toward compliance.

Accomplishment: This approach is positive and observable. First, the Regional Water Board's presence, authority, and role in protecting and restoring water quality are increasingly acknowledged and understood. Second, the communities have changed from denial and fear to productive engagement and cooperative problem-solving. Third, staff efforts are resulting in water quality benefits, with opportunities for other benefits.

1 North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Russian River Watershed Reuse

The Russian River is prized as a drinking water source, a fun place to swim or canoe, and a great watershed to grow grapes. Indirect discharges of municipal wastewater into the river continue. While the prohibition against summer discharge was designed to protect the high quality of the river, it has served to accelerate reuse and offset water diversions from the river.

Accomplishments: The Santa Rosa Sub-regional Wastewater Reclamation system discharged to the Russian River only 12 days in 2007, the balance of their 15.0 mgd flow (about 5 billion gallons/year) was reused. The City of Windsor is designing storage ponds to increase their reuse options. The Cities of Cloverdale and Healdsburg have committed to stop summer indirect discharge and reuse their effluent. Recycled water is reused at the Geysers steam field to create energy; in communities for landscape irrigation; and in rural areas for dairy pastureland and grapes.

Organizations involved included the Communities of Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Rohnert Park, Ukiah, Cloverdale, Healdsburg, stakeholders and public.

1 North Coast Regional Board
Smith River Diesel Cleanup

The Smith River in Del Norte County is California's only major un-dammed river. In February 2008 a fuel truck crashed spilling 4,000 gallons of red-colored diesel fuel into the Smith River.

Accomplishment: Working around the clock, crews placed booms along the river and extracted the fuel from a trench on the gravel bar. Contaminated river rocks were steam cleaned. We recovered an estimated 80% of the spilled fuel and protected the river.

Organizations involved include the Department of Fish & Game US Forest Service, Del Norte County, California Highway Patrol, Department of Public Health, Department of Transportation.

2 San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board
Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Grazing Operations

Tomales Bay and its tributaries are impaired by pathogens, harming commercial shell fish harvesting and recreation. The Waiver fulfills actions required in the *Tomales Bay Pathogen TMDL Implementation Plan*, the *Walker Creek Mercury TMDL Implementation Plan*, and *California's Policy for Implementation and Enforcement of the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program*.

Accomplishment: The Conditional Waiver regulates under-regulated dischargers by requiring landowners/operators of grazing operations to start multi-objective management practices. The waiver requires each grazing operator to prepare a *Ranch Water Quality Plan* that identifies where and when management practices will be carried out. It addresses the anticipated requirements of sediment and nutrients TMDLs in the Tomales Bay Watershed.

Organizations involved in this effort include grazing operators, Marin County Resource Conservation District, University of California Cooperative Extension, Western United Dairymen, National Resources Conservation Service, and stakeholders.

2 San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board
Enforcement Strategy

Enforcement activity outside of NPDES mandatory minimum penalties was minimal as a result of ineffective guidance on preparation. Procedures were not consistent, required extensive staff efforts, and did not fully address mandated and procedures.

Accomplishment: We reorganized and improved our approach to enforcement. Our strategic enforcement efforts focusing on sewage spills, sanitary sewer overflows, and industrial NPDES Storm water permit late reporting violations have resulted more than $3.6 million in administrative civil liability complaints. These efforts aim to deter future non-compliance, and create incentives for infrastructure and wet weather treatment plant upgrades.

2 San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board
Guadalupe River Watershed Mercury TMDL

Several water bodies in the Guadalupe River are heavily polluted by mercury. Wastes from past mining activities are still present on the land and in the sediments of the river and its tributaries. Fish are contaminated and there is a public health warning not to eat the fish. The river drains into an area destined to be a major wetland restoration.

Accomplishment: The Mercury TMDLs for the Guadalupe River watershed puts forth a 20-year plan for cleaning up mercury to levels that would protect human health and wildlife. The TMDL focuses on reducing the level of mercury in runoff from land areas with mining waste.

2 San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board
PCB TMDL

PCBs contaminate fish in San Francisco Bay. There are health warnings advising people to limit consumption of fish. PCBs also pose threats to wildlife. PCBs are a legacy pollutant; their manufacture was banned nationwide in the 1970s.

Accomplishment: The San Francisco Bay PCBs TMDL puts forth a 20-year plan to reduce loading and address clean up PCBs in the Bay to levels that would protect human health and wildlife. The TMDL focuses on reducing the level of PCBs in urban runoff through municipal stormwater permits. The TMDL calls upon dischargers to develop programs to assist in managing the risk to human health from consuming contaminated Bay fish.

2 San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board
Tidal Marsh Restoration of the South Bay Salt Pond

Restoration of the South Bay Salt Ponds to tidal marsh creates a challenge to balance water quality, flood control, native special status biological species, and recreation. This order will begin marsh restoration while seeking to protect beneficial uses in the San Francisco Bay area.

Accomplishment: The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project was developed over years with stakeholders to ensure human life is safe, and property will not be flooded, water quality will be improved, native tidal marsh species will be protected and their habitats expanded, and recreational opportunities in the Bay Area will be as extensive as possible without harming wildlife. The order covers the first phase of the project which will be experimental and adaptively managed to determine which new habitats can protect water quality. Some of the new tidal marsh and reconfigured managed pond systems will be reversible and monitoring will be conducted to make sure that water quality objectives remain and biological species are protected. This increase of tidal wetlands will provide a boost to the goal of increasing wetlands.

Organizations involved inthis effort included the California Coastal Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Department of Fish & Game.

2 San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board
Environmental Screening Levels

The Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) were revised in February 2005 and were due for an update. The underlying toxicity factors and other inputs necessitate updates to the Environmental Screening Levels to maintain its "evergreen" status.

Accomplishment: The update was prepared by our staff toxicologist with our management team after internal review by staff in our site cleanup programs, as well as reviewers from other agencies. The Environmental Screening Levels are intended to help staff and dischargers focus their site investigation and cleanup activities. They also streamline site investigation, cleanup, and closure which help encourage Brownfield restoration. Having up-to-date Environmental Screening Levels makes them relevant to internal and external users.

3 Central Coast Regional Water Board
Controlling Urban Runoff

Increased water volume and pollutants from stormwater have degraded water quality and habitats. To provide important regulation, all stormwater and other wastewater discharge permits should be based on watershed boundaries instead of political boundaries.

Accomplishment: Urban runoff improvements are showing progress through: 1) regulatory program expectations for hydromodification controls, 2) regulatory assistance through creation of a Low Impact Development Center for the Central Coast, and 3) through coordination with agencies to create an LID educational program for the State.

3 Central Coast Regional Water Board
Creating conservation easements w/Settlement Funds

Creating conservation easements, and through saving the ecological function of watersheds.

Accomplishment: Through judicious use of settlement funds, we allocated $900,000 to the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo to assist with funding acquisition and permanent preservation of the 143- acre Paradise Beach property, including a half mile of beach frontage with associated tide pools and subtidal habitat, north of Point Sal, on California's coastline. Also, by augmenting CCAMP's endowment, we continue to operate at minimal levels even during the worst budget cycles. We uploaded thousands of lines of evidence to the State Water Board enabling assessment of Central Coast waters for the *305 (b) water quality report and 303(d) impaired waters listings*.

3 Central Coast Regional Water Board
Performance-Based Organization

Performance-Based Organization.

Accomplishment: We have improved staff in three ways: 1) by attracting and hiring the best and brightest with leadership skills and outstanding potential, through improved hiring methods, 2) by improving existing staff's leadership and potential through leadership training and increased accountability and expectations that are aligned with our Vision and Goals, and through diligent and meaningful Individual Development Plans and performance reviews with recognition and consequences, and, 3) through use of the disciplinary process where needed to address those not meeting expectations of satisfactory performance or behavior.

3 Central Coast Regional Water Board
Olin Perchlorate Site Cleanup

Olin Corporation discharged perchlorate that created a plume over 10 miles long, affecting hundreds of wells and thousands of well users in southern Santa Clara County. Well users include individuals, small community well systems, and municipalities.

Accomplishment: We have taken an aggressive approach with cleanup oversight and pushed Olin beyond Olin's proposed extent and pace of cleanup. Olin cleaned up on-site soil contamination and on-site groundwater cleanup continues. Olin is proceeding with off-site groundwater cleanup implementation. The CCWB also oversees Olin's required alternative water supply program. About 725 well owners providing water to thousands of people were initially in the program and receiving bottled or treated water. Due to reduction in perchlorate concentrations in wells, those reliant on bottled water are now down from to 113 well users (though that reduction is not all in 2008). Also, much of that reduction in contamination is from dispersion/dilution and a change in the "action" standard (from 4 to 6 ppb). However, we have required an extremely rapid response from Olin since discovering this plume. Olin has performed according to out expectations. The investigation and cleanup schedule for the Olin site is remarkable. Sites of this magnitude and complexity often take decades to get as far as this one has in just a few years.

3 Central Coast Regional Water Board
Grants Program Improvements

Slack grants oversight lead to poor products and wasted funds.

Accomplishment: Staff has worked to make the grants program the best in the State based on accountability and tangible results. We improved accountability and management of grant-funded projects to achieve intended environmental outcomes, and financial responsibility has yielded positive results. An audit by the Department of Finance of Proposition 13, 40, and 50 Bond funds used by the State Water Boards, cites some statewide areas for improvement of oversight, but said, "Conversely, the Central Coast Regional Board, for example, has been proactive in fiscal monitoring. Specifically, a grant analyst reviews all project costs for eligibility, proper documentation, and consistency with the grants budget prior to submitting the invoice to the grant manager for approval. If there is a lack of supporting documentation or the invoice includes ineligible costs, the invoice is returned to the grantee for correction. The State Board may want to consider a similar approach in other program or regional areas."

4 Los Angeles Water Board
Machado Lake TMDL

Machado Lake provides recreational to the public and is a renowned wildlife sanctuary. Pollutants including odor, scum, and excessive algae impair these beneficial uses. The TMDL coordinates with existing projects planned by the City of Los Angeles to realize cost effective solutions to reduce the contaminant loadings and restore Machado Lake to its full beneficial uses. The TMDL can be used as a template for other urban lake TMDLs throughout the state.

Accomplishment: The TMDL was developed using the input from stakeholder meetings and several public comment periods. The TMDL reflects the most current science in limnology and nutrient enrichment of urban lakes to ensure an effective implementation plan. The TMDL relied on a state-of-the-art water quality model developed by the US EPA to set appropriate pollutant reduction strategies. Highlights of the TMDL include coordination with existing water quality plans to accelerate actions to reduce pollutant loadings into Machado Lake.

4 Los Angeles Water Board
Calleguas Creek TMDL

Calleguas Creek (surface and ground waters) have been harmed by the salts and effect agricultural and aquatic life beneficial uses, both important to the economy and ecology of the Calleguas Creek watershed. Realizing the benefits to long- term water supplies as well as in stream water quality, a combination of solutions to address ground and surface water impairments was developed for this TMDL. The TMDL provides a unique approach in reducing pollutant loads in groundwater basins underlying Calleguas Creek through advanced treatment and construction of a brine line. This provides additional benefits to increase water supplies and improve both surface water and groundwater quality. The TMDL coordinates with existing projects planned by the municipalities and water agencies in the Calleguas Creek watershed for cost effective solutions to reduce to salt throughout the Calleguas Creek watershed and to restore Calleguas Creek to its full beneficial uses. The TMDL can be used as a template for other salts TMDLs throughout the state.

Accomplishment: The TMDL was developed from stakeholder meetings and public comments. The TMDL reflects the current technology to reduce salt concentrations in waterbodies to ensure an effective TMDL implementation plan. The TMDL relied on a state-of-the-art water quality model developed to set appropriate pollutant reduction strategies. Highlights of the TMDL include coordination with existing water quality plans to accelerate actions to reduce pollutant loadings into Calleguas Creek.

4 Los Angeles Regional Water Board

Attorney General's Pilot Project

To allow greater use of the staff of the Attorney General's office, enhance the water quality enforcement capabilities, and to develop a model that can be carried out by other Regional Boards.

Accomplishment: The pilot program was developed through the initiative of the Office of Enforcement and the Los Angeles Regional Board, who wished to develop the expertise and use of the Attorney General's office in water quality enforcement. Discussions were initiated with the Attorney General's office, a funding source was identified, and funds were allocated from the Cleanup and Abatement Account. A contract was developed, and was approved in August 2008. The contract allows for a three year pilot, to develop the working relationship between the Los Angeles Water Board and the Attorney General's office, and to develop, refer and prosecute water quality enforcement cases.

Other organizations involved in this effort include the Attorney General's Office, Office of Enforcement, DAS and DFA.

4 Los Angeles Regional Water Board

Douglas Park Project

Boeing is working with the cities of Long Beach and Lakewood to redevelop and sell this 343-acres site, a former aircraft manufacturing and assembly plant near the Long Beach Airport, to promote economic growth and employment. To aid redevelopment and sales, Boeing has performed a comprehensive, multi-phase environmental remediation program under the oversight of the Los Angeles Regional Water Board.

Accomplishment: Approximately 54-acres of the Douglas Park Project were sold in 2006 and 2007 with additional sales expected in 2008. The Former 717 and Alteon Facilities, are in escrow for a movie studio and community college use. The redevelopment plan for the Douglas Park Project is expected to generate 10,000 jobs with economic advances with movie studio and community college uses. Staff continues to work with Boeing to complete soil remediation and obtain respective parcel closures concurrent with groundwater remediation and long-term monitoring in order to further this redevelopment.

4 Los Angeles Regional Water Board
Mass Removal and E-Government

Paperless filing procedures and directives to clean up contamination in the UST program were needed.

Accomplishment: Staff issued more than 1,000 directive letters to responsible parties for site investigation, monitoring, and cleanup, including formal or informal enforcement letters and Cleanup and Abatement Orders. Staff also granted 74 case closures, reviewed more than 2,500 quarterly groundwater monitoring reports, and conducted 128 site inspections. This represents:

- 26,800 tons of impacted soil removed and legally disposed,
- 437,000 million pounds of petroleum hydrocarbons recovered, and
- 1.3 million gallons of groundwater treated.

In 2008, UST Program staff issued 19 General WDRs (Order No. R4-2007-0019) to proceed with in-situ groundwater cleanup at affected sites.

Also, staff began paperless filing procedures within the UST program. All reports and correspondence are filed electronically. Staff has upgraded the UST web page, to provide more access to information including used regulatory guidelines, groundwater depth data, Excel spreadsheet analytical models, MTBE data, and closure letters issued since 2004, all on the Web site. Staff added a public participation web page to serve as an electronic document repository for those sites where the public has great interest.

5 Central Valley Regional Water Board
Waste Discharge Requirements-Dairies

Some dairy owners/operators do not have the technical expertise needed to comply with the general order and protect water quality. Experienced consultants are not available to conduct the work, and may be too costly for smaller dairies.

Accomplishment: In May 2007, the Central Valley Water Board adopted general waste discharge requirements that placed all 1,600+ existing dairies under requirements for the first time. Adoption of the general order was the culmination of extensive work with dairy industry organizations, the Dairy Quality Assurance Program, environmental justice, academic (UC Davis Extension) and other stakeholders. The general order requires studies of dairy facilities, waste quantity and character, storage and containment facilities, and nutrient management. Protocols were developed for these studies, and training courses were held to educate dairy operators on the general order, the studies that needed to be done, and how the studies could be completed. The efforts have resulted in a submittal rate of nearly 100% for the reports required by the general order to date.

5 Central Valley Regional Water Board
Bay-Delta

The Sacramento-San Francisco Bay Delta supplies 70% of the surface water supplies to the State, and is the largest West Coast estuary, home or migration corridor to many threatened and endangered species. Aside from the ecologic harm, export pumping of Delta water has been curtailed to minimize harm on Delta life.

Accomplishment: A team from Regions 2 and 5, and the Division of Water Rights was assembled to coordinate Delta review and response. A Strategic Work plan was developed and adopted by the State Board and both Regional Boards. Work is in progress on scientific research on water quality effects, evaluation of existing data, conducting additional monitoring, development of a regional monitoring program, and reexamination of permits and other regulatory actions to identify any unaddressed water quality concerns. This year, we continued TMDLs that focused on controlling pesticides, salinity, mercury, bacteria and other contaminants that pose a risk to the Delta.

5 Central Valley Regional Water Board
Non-Point Source Regulation

This region contains the State's largest agricultural area, over one-half of the State's timberlands, most of the grazing lands, the largest number of abandoned mines that discharge to surface and ground water, on-site sewage disposal systems, wastewater discharges from vessels and other large non-point sources of pollution to waterways.

Accomplishment: The Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program has enrolled more than 5 million acres of irrigated lands, formed coalitions to conduct technical work on pollution issues, conducted extensive monitoring, and is developing management plans to address identified water quality problems.

The timber harvest conditional waiver program coordinates with State and Federal forestry agencies to address water quality issues in timber harvest plans. Landowners are employing improved BMPs and modifying harvesting methods and road construction to improve water quality.

The coordination with local watershed groups with the use of State grant funds has fixed streams in upper watersheds increasing water yield and restoring cold water fisheries.

The regulation and cleanup of abandoned mines in the Sierras, Cascades and Coast ranges has reduced the discharge of heavy metals (copper, zinc, cadmium and mercury) and arsenic by thousands of pounds annually.

Staff has coordinated with counties to improve site approval and permitting of on-site sewage disposal systems through county ordinances that are compatible with Basin Plan guidelines and will likely comply with the AB 885 on-site regulations. The enforcement of a "decades old" Basin Plan Prohibition on use of on-site systems in the Chico urban area has eliminated 1,500 on-site systems, and an SRF Loan to eliminate another 6,000 systems.

Staff has partnered with the US Forest Service to eliminate 1.3 million gallons per year of high strength wastewater from being discharged to Shasta Lake by private and commercial houseboats.

5 Central Valley Regional Water Board
NPDES Program Improvement

Backlogs of expired NPDES Permits and MMP violations had accumulated. Expired permits do not reflect t policy and regulation, and may not be fully protective of water quality.

Accomplishment: NPDES staffing was reorganized to separate permitting from compliance and enforcement work, allowing staff to better focus on permitting or enforcement actions. Templates and guidance were developed to streamline and improve efficiency of staff work. The effort resulted in a dramatic decrease in expired NPDES Permits (the backlog should be almost eliminated by the December 2008 Board meeting), and a significant increase in the number of MMPs addressed (most MMPs on individual NPDES Permit violations will be issued by the December 2008 Board meeting).

5 Central Valley Regional Water Board
Disaster Response

Disasters often result in short and long-term water quality problems.

Accomplishment: Staff are act in a regulatory and advisory capacity to evaluate water quality and public health threats, determine appropriate means of waste disposal, supervise and/or conduct site stabilization and cleanup operations, and take regulatory and enforcement actions. Two major disasters stand out this year.

Massive wildfires occurred in several areas of the Central Valley region. A Interagency teams were deployed to assess the potential harm from the Shasta County fires. A second fire, a railroad trestle fire in Sacramento closed a major rail line, and the fire and suppression efforts threatened aquatic life and drinking water supplies in the American River. The State's Emergency Control System was activated, and staff was directing environmental operations, including water quality protection efforts during the firefight, and expedited reconstruction and cleanup approvals that allowed rail line to be reopened quickly.

6 Lahontan Regional Water Board
Lake Tahoe TMDL

Lake Tahoe's clarity continues to decline from increased sediment and nutrients from human activities.

Accomplishment: We made significant progress on completing the Restoration Plan for Lake Tahoe's clarity (the total maximum daily load plan to reduce sediment and nutrients to Lake Tahoe). "*Charting the Course to Clarity*" summarizes the $10 million scientific effort completed at Lake Tahoe. Studies focused on answering three questions: 1) what pollutants are causing the loss of clarity and what are the sources? 2) How much of each pollutant can Lake Tahoe still accept and achieve the clarity standard? 3) What are the best methods to reduce the pollutants reaching Lake Tahoe? Two other reports are available at the Water Board's Web site: *Lake Tahoe Technical Report* and *Pollutant Reduction Opportunity Report*). These reports will serve as the foundation for the completed TMDL, to be released for public comment in 2009.

Other agencies involved include the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, US Forest Service- Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

6 Lahontan Regional Water Board
Sewering Eagle Lake communities, Lassen County

Sewage disposal to individual leachfields harmed water supply wells and contributed to accelerated eutrophication of Eagle Lake. Community wastewater facilities can safely dispose of sewage in lined evaporation ponds.

Accomplishment: Staff worked with two communities and to construct and operate wastewater facilities with no discharge to surface or ground waters. Nutrient and bacteria loading from sewage disposal to both ground and surface waters of the Eagle Lake basin have been reduced or eliminated. We issued 13267 Orders to individuals that had not connected. In 2009 we will consider additional enforcement actions to facilitate the connection of residences to the Spalding Tract community system.

Other organizations involved included the Spalding Community Services District, US Forest Service-Lassen National Forest, Lassen County, and community members.

6 Lahontan Regional Water Board
Increased Enforcement

Enforcement efforts overall in the region needed enhancement.

Accomplishment: As a result of CalEPA's Enforcement Initiative and State Water Board direction, the Lahontan ReginonalWater Board created an Enforcement Unit that prosecutes significant enforcement actions for the Board. The head of the Enforcement Unit, along with the Region's Division Managers, AEO and EO constitute an Enforcement Committee that meets monthly to review violations and prioritize formal enforcement actions. Staff review violations and prioritize formal enforcement monthly.

These steps have brought an increased and focused emphasis on enforcement and has increased consistency on enforcement resulting in $5.43 million in ACLs, with an $2.75 million administrative civil liability settlement waiting for Board approval; $4.55 million in SEPs, with an additional $2.15 million SEP waiting for Board approval.

6 Lahontan Water Board
PG&E Hinkley Community Involvement and Chromium Cleanup

The Negative perception of the Lahontan Water Board by members of the Hinkley community needed to be addressed.

Accomplishment: The 2000 movie "*Erin Brockovich*" detailed chromium 6 contamination at Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Hinkley Compressor Station near Barstow. Our staff was portrayed as a bureaucrat uninterested in assisting Brockovich's investigation or the public. Now, the people of the community know that the Lahontan Water Board is helping protect the public from contaminated water and making PG&E clean up the chromium. Residents in the Hinkley community had significant animosity toward PG&E that bled over to distrust for the Water Board. Perceptions have changed as a result of a concerted effort to regularly meet with the community to discuss the situation, describe the progress being made on containment and cleanup, and present the plans for cleanup in the future. Since there is a significant Hispanic population in the area, Spanish interpreters have assisted Spanish speakers. Fact Sheets or Site Activities Updates have been sent to all households in the community, and these have been translated into Spanish for distribution at the public meetings.

6 Lahontan Regional Water Board
$4.75 million Settlement Los Angeles Sanitation District

A solution was required for complex sites in order to bring about a substantial reduction in nitrate discharge to groundwater over time. Bringing this discharger into compliance with its permits and requiring groundwater investigations and cleanup for the Palmdale disposal site needed to occur.

Accomplishment: A $4.75 million Administrative Civil Liability Order was issued to for violations at its wastewater treatment plants at Palmdale and Lancaster. The settlement included a supplemental environmental project that provided start-up money used to promote recycled water use in Antelope Valley.

7 Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board
Topock Compressor Station Corrective Action

PG&E's Topock Compressor Station is adjacent to the Colorado River. Between 1951 and 1964 PG&E discharged untreated cooling-tower wastewater containing hexavalent chromium to percolation beds in Bat Cave Wash, an ephemeral streambed that drains into the Colorado River. This led to elevated levels of hexavalent chromium being detected in the groundwater. There is a continuing need to update Monitoring and Reporting Programs to reflect progress and monitoring needs in the floodplain and groundwater injection areas.

Accomplishment: More than 230 million gallons of groundwater have been treated from March 2004 through May 2008 and reinjected. The groundwater treatment system removes 3-4 lbs of chromium per day, for a total of more than 5,000 lbs removed through May 2008.

Many organizations are involved in this effort including the Department of Toxic Substances Control, the United States Department of the Interior, US EPA, California Department of Fish and Game, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Colorado River Board of California, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and ten Indian tribes.

7 Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board
Monitoring Water Quality Improvements New River at International Boundary

Ongoing monitoring, inspection, and assessment of water quality improvements in the New River at the International Boundary is required following completion and operation of Las Arenitas Wastewater Treatment Plant in Mexicali, Mexico.

Accomplishment: As a result of extensive cooperation and coordination between the U.S. and Mexico, the Las Arenitas Wastewater Treatment Plant, in Mexicali, Mexico, started operation March 2007. Las Arenitas Wastewater Treatment Plant is designed to prevent any remaining untreated municipal sewage in Mexicali from being discharged into the New River. As a result, 15-20 million gallons per day of raw sewage in the New River at the border have been eliminated. Data analyses show that New River bacteria were significantly reduced by about 10-fold and volatile organic compounds were reduced to below detection limits. Also, the improvements and new WWTP have reduced the nutrient loading into the Salton Sea by about 20%.

Organizations involved in this effort include the US EPA, US IBWC, and Calexico Wastewater Treatment Plant.

7 Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board
Adoption of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) NPDES Permits

The existing MS4 Permit was a second term NPDES storm water permit and needed to be updated to reflect other third term permits within the State and include requirements for developing measurable goals for site design Best Management Practices. Also, the CAFO Permit, last updated in 2001, was a second term permit and needed to be updated to reflect State and US EPA CAFO regulations and to standardize monitoring and reporting requirements.

Accomplishment: The MS4 Permit update was developed with stakeholders during monthly permit meetings. Upon completion of the draft permit, the entire permit was reviewed by all stakeholders with regard to findings, requirements and implementations. The CAFO Permit update was developed with assistance by Tetra Tech. Regional Water Board staff worked with representatives of the CAFO permittees, National Resource Conservation Service, UC Davis Farm Extension, Imperial Valley Growers Association, and County of Imperial Environmental Health Department to address concerns raised by permittees and included permit forms for monitoring and reporting.

7 Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board
Completion of 2007 Triennial Review

Issue: The Basin Plan required an update pursuant to Section 303 (c) (1) of the *Clean Water Act*, and to reflect water quality priorities of the Region.

Accomplishment: The Board acknowledged completion of the 2007 Triennial Review, and adopted the Triennial Review List and Work Plan in March, 2008. The Board directed staff to address high-priority issues identified in the Work Plan. Staff is completing Basin Plan Amendments to address the following:

- Conditionally prohibit agricultural discharges in Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa;
- Conditionally prohibit certain agricultural discharges in Coachella Valley;
- Conditionally prohibit certain agricultural discharges in Bard Valley;
- Change Water Quality Objectives for pathogen indicator bacteria from three indicators(*fecal coliform, enterococci, and E. coli*) to one indicator (*E.coli*) in the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel(CVSC);
- Suspend Water Contact Recreation (REC-I) Beneficial Use in the CVSC during critical, high flow (storm) conditions; and
- Conditionally prohibit septic systems in the Town of Yucca Valley.

The Board adopted the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Bacteria Indicators TMDL on May 16, 2007, and staff made progress developing the New River Dissolved Oxygen (DO) TMDL, scheduled for Board consideration for adoption in May 2009. To date, the following five TMDLs have been approved by the US EPA for impaired waters: Alamo River Silt TMDL; New River Pathogens TMDL; New River Silt TMDL; Imperial Valley Agricultural Drains Silt TMDL; and New River Trash TMDL.

8 Santa Ana Regional Water Board
Rialto Perchlorate Cleanup and Abatement Account Project

A plume of groundwater contamination with perchlorate is present in the Rialto area. This plume must be addressed as it continues to migrate and is the largest uncontrolled plume in the area. A State Water Board hearing on a proposed cleanup and abatement order has been stayed by the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Accomplishment: The Regional Water Board requested, and the State Water Board approved, $3 million in funding from the Cleanup and Abatement Account for more investigations of the plume and to develop a cleanup plan.

8 Santa Ana Regional Water Board
Emerging Contaminants Task Force

Groundwater monitoring by a local agency in the upper part of the watershed found that emerging contaminants were present in the groundwater through approximately 400 feet of vadose zone, downgradient from an area served by medium-density individual wastewater disposal systems (septic tanks). Also, monitoring of groundwater recharge operations using recycled water has also identified emerging contaminants. Although there is yet no regulatory requirement to monitor these compounds, the Regional Board that it is important to generate data to document the levels being discharged.

Accomplishment: The Task Force seeks to develop appropriate monitoring programs for emerging contaminants (endocrine disrupting compounds, pharmaceuticals, and personal care products) in surface water discharges from POTWs and in groundwater recharge projects using either recycled or imported water. It is expected that the task force will generate recommendations for the monitoring of surrogate or indicator parameters that will substitute for the need to monitor for these materials. The task force has made progress and has agreed to continue monitoring for emerging contaminants using a program developed by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California/Orange County Water District/National Water Research Institute until a watershed-specific program is developed and approved.

8 Santa Ana Regional Water Board
Storm Water Quality Standards Task Force

The Regional Water Boards adopted a TMDL for pathogen indicator bacteria in several lakes and streams in the Santa Ana Region based on fecal coliform data. Because of the differences in the approach used with the federal guidance, the Regional Water Board agreed that the standards should be reassessed and updated in accordance with federal guidance. A Task Force was established in 2003 to review both the beneficial use designations and the related pathogen indicator objectives.

Accomplishments: The task force (organized by the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority) has met monthly to consider the beneficial use definitions, the bacterial objectives to protect those uses and to develop a strategy to achieve those standards. The task force reviewed State and federal guidance, reexamined the pertinent scientific literature and surveyed the regulatory approaches used by other Regional Water Boards and the 49 states. Video cameras were installed at 12 locations to evaluate the nature of water contact recreation occurring in freshwater channels throughout the watershed. Regular project updates were provided in workshops before the Regional Board and special progress reports were presented to US EPA and State Water Board staff. The formal basin plan amendment process is expected to be completed in 2009.

8 Santa Ana Regional Water Board
Imported Water Recharge Cooperative Agreement Adoption

Certain groundwater management zones within the Santa Ana River Watershed have TDS water quality objectives that are as low as 200 mg/l. This agreement will provide critical water quality data allowing us to assess water quality information related to the recharge of imported water within the area.

Accomplishment: Groundwater management zones in the Santa Ana River Watershed have total dissolved solids water quality objectives that are as low as 200 mg/l. The Imported Water Cooperative Agreement is like a "contract" with agencies that recharge or plan to recharge imported water in the watershed. Under this Agreement, the recharging agencies have agreed to model the effects of their ongoing and planned imported water recharge operations over 20-years using scientific methods compatible with those used by the region's Nitrogen/TDS Task Force in setting groundwater quality objectives and calculating ambient groundwater quality. The recharging agencies have also agreed to update these model projections every 6 years. This agreement fills a critically important data gap for assessing groundwater quality, and it is accomplished in a cooperative, rather than regulatory, manner.

8 Santa Ana Regional Water Board
Newport Bay Watershed Organochlorine Compounds (OC) TMDLs

The process to adopt the Newport Bay watershed OCs TMDLs was controversial because stakeholders said that compliance with the exceedingly small allocations for DDT, PCBs, chlordane and toxaphene would be problematic.

Accomplishment: Staff worked with a sophisticated stakeholder group to craft a TMDL plan that should demonstrate compliance with the organochlorine compounds TMDLs and achieve water quality standards within the time schedule. The plan entails ongoing technical expert review and comment, and an opportunity to participate in an adaptive management plan that provides for integration with other TMDL considerations.

9 San Diego Regional Water Board
Reorganization of the San Diego Regional Board Staff

A major reorganization of staff was necessary to meet the growing needs of management and staff.

Accomplishment: This reorganization expanded a watershed-based structure of programs and staff previously assigned to the Groundwater Branch. Groundwater programs were reassigned to staff within the branch by areas defined by watersheds. With a watershed-based structure expanded to all three branches, staff is responsible for multiple programs in a defined area. This expansion to three branches has provided greater direction to middle management supervisors and has provided greater support for the management responsibilities of the Executive Officer and Assistant Executive Officer. The third branch was established to consist of the Administrative Support and Information Technology staff, the Compliance Assurance Unit staff, the two technical units assigned to Basin Planning, TMDLs, Water Quality Assessment, and SWAMP.

There have been three benefits resulting from this reorganization: 1) expands the direction and oversight that management provides to staff; 2) provides staff the opportunity for multiple programs in specified areas defined by watersheds, and 3) increases the chances of success in addressing water quality problems unique to specific watersheds.

9 San Diego Regional Water Board
Compliance Project Proposed by US International Boundary and Water Commission

The discharge of treated wastewater from IBWC's international wastewater treatment fails to comply with the *California Ocean Plan* and federal secondary treatment standards of the *Clean Water Act*. In 2001 the San Diego Regional Water Board addressed this chronic noncompliance by the federal government by filing suit in federal court to enforce a compliance date of Sept. 30, 2008.

Accomplishment: Although the Sept. 30, 2008 compliance date has passed without completion of the needed secondary treatment facilities, the US Federal Court judge may consider providing additional time beyond the compliance date provided USIBWC is able to demonstrate that the proposed project has adequate funding to be completed. The additional time granted is likely to be 18 to 24 month. A hearing in Federal Court is scheduled for Dec. 3, 2008.

9 San Diego Regional Water Board
San Diego Bay Shipyard Sediment Site Cleanup Project--Mediation

Elevated levels of pollutants exist in the San Diego Bay bottom marine sediment along the eastern shore of central San Diego Bay in a 100-acre area. This area is referred to as the "Shipyard Sediment Site."

A tentative Cleanup and Abatement Order identified alternative cleanup scenarios with costs ranging from $900,000 for the natural recovery/no action alternative to $122,000,000 for the cleanup to background alternative. The parties deemed responsible for the pollution at the site have denied any responsibility and argued for no-action, or passive remediation alternatives. Environmental groups have argued for cleanup to background levels. Until legal challenges to an adopted order are resolved, it is considered unlikely that the parties responsible for the pollutants in the sediments will actually undertake the cleanup.

Accomplishment: To break the impasse so that the cleanup can move forward, the San Diego regional Water Board took a lead role in brokering an agreement between the parties to attempt to resolve the cleanup level and liability issues in the matter through formal mediation conducted by a third party mediator under Regional Board member direction. The initial 90 day mediation period concluded in September, 2008. Progress has being made and the mediation process is currently ongoing through December, 2008.

9 San Diego Regional Water Board
Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Emergency Repair and Protection Activities in Non-Federal Waters of the State

Wildfires devastated parts of the area in October 2007 and resulted in emergency repair and protection measures. Many of the emergency projects could harm streams by dredge and fill activities. A regulatory tool was needed to allow emergency repair and protection projects to proceed expeditiously while providing protections for water quality and beneficial uses.

Accomplishment: A Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Emergency Repair and Protection Activities in Non-Federal Waters of the State (Resolution No. R9-2007-0211) was issued to allow emergency activities to proceed. The waiver is similar to a nationwide Regional General Permit (no. 63) issued by the Department of the Army that cover emergency dredge and fill projects to federal waters under Clean Water Act Section 404.

9 San Diego Regional Water Board

Tijuana River Valley Trash and Sediment Strategic Plan and actions

The Tijuana River and Estuary are polluted by discharges of sediment, trash and other pollutants from Mexico. The Regional Water Board has no legal authority to abate pollution from Mexico, but has determined to use all regulatory measures to solve this issue on the California side of the international boundary.

Accomplishment: The *Tijuana River Valley Strategic Plan* was developed with input from a public workshop and public comments. A recent second, stakeholder workshop was held in October 2008, where the Executive Officer, began efforts to address challenges concerning the Tijuana River Estuary. A Strategic Plan was developed for restoring the estuary to its original healthy condition. The strategy begins with capturing and disposing the sediment and trash which crosses the international border, followed by a clean up of the existing pollutants in the estuary, and concludes with a full restoration of the water way hydrologically, and with fauna and flora. All 35 participants of the workshop committed to participating in one or more of four workgroups. The four workgroups are: Border Issues (i.e. sediment basin and trash grate construction), Cleanup Effort, Remediation Effort, and Mexican Issues. Notably, the City of San Diego and County of San Diego assumed the lead role for the Border Issues and Cleanup Effort workgroups, while the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve assumed the lead role for the Remediation Effort and Mexican Issues workgroups. A tentative status report by workgroup leads is scheduled for the Dec. 10, 2008 Regional Board meeting.

The State Water Board

- Division of Financial Assistance (DFA)
- Office of Enforcement (OE)
- Office of Research, Planning and Performance (ORPP)
- Division of Administrative Services (DAS)
- Office of Information Management and Analysis (OIMA), and Division of Information Technology (DIT)
- Division of Water Quality (DWQ)
- Division of Water Rights (DWR)

Small Community Wastewater Strategy

Many small and/or disadvantaged communities are on failing septic systems or have old and undersized wastewater treatment plants that cannot meet current wastewater quality standards. Such systems can cause significant health and safety problems, endanger surface water uses, and pose a threat to groundwater supplies. The challenges small and/or disadvantaged communities face generally result from a lack of adequate local monetary resources combined with insufficient access to technical expertise.

Accomplishment: The State Water Board adopted Resolution 2008-0048, Promoting Strategies to Assist Small and/or Disadvantaged Communities with Wastewater Needs. The Resolution identifies 11 actions State Water Board staff will take to help assist small and/or disadvantaged communities address their wastewater needs. The Resolution references the *Small Community Wastewater Strategy*, which provides an overview of the problems faced by small and/or disadvantaged communities and proposes solutions to address those problems.

Sustainable Water Resources Management

California continues to live beyond its means in water and energy resources. Urban sprawl, climate change, water overdraft, and emerging pollutants require the Water Boards to stretch the scope of traditional water quality and resource management.

Accomplishment: Updated the 2005 Sustainability Resolution to:

- integrate climate change strategies and comply with the goals stated in Assembly Bill 32;
- promote measures such as recycled water, conservation, and low impact development (LID) Best Management Practices where appropriate and work with dischargers to ensure proposed compliance documents include appropriate, sustainable water management strategies, and
- assign a higher grant priority to climate-related and LID projects.

Some of the efforts include adding points to the Proposition 84 Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) project ranking criteria for projects that include low impact development and other energy saving ways to treat water, and workshops with Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other permitting agencies, to streamline permitting for LID projects.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

The 2004 clean watersheds needs survey shows that California needs an estimated $21 billion for waste water treatment, water recycling, non-point source correction, and storm water pollution prevention projects over the next 20 years. This includes $18.2 billion to update aging infrastructure. State funding provides low-interest loans for construction of publicly owned treatment works and water reclamation facilities and low-interest loans to address non-point sources of pollution and implement estuary conservation and management. Funds support improving wastewater treatment facilities; fixing sewer collection systems to prevent spills; constructing recycled water distribution systems, and addressing non-point source pollution problems.

Accomplishment: This loan program issued 37 financing agreements for $394 million, including:

- 20 projects received funds to improve or upgrade wastewater treatment facilities
- 11 projects received funds to construct or fix sewer collection systems
- 6 projects received funds to construct facilities for recycled water distribution
- 1 project received funds to address a non-point source pollution problem

Since 1988, the program has issued more than $4.2 billion in low-interest loans for water quality projects.

Proposition 50 Integrated Regional Water Management Funding

California voters passed Proposition 50, *the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal, and Beach Protection Act of 2002*. It amended the *California Water Code* authorizing the Legislature to appropriate $500 million to establish the Integrated Regional Water Management Program. This program encourages integrated regional strategies for water resources management and provides funding, through competitive grants, for projects that protect communities from drought, protect and improve water quality, and improve local water security by reducing dependence on imported water.

Accomplishment: "*IRWM Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Packages*" were developed jointly with the Department of Water Resources after input from legislative workshops, meetings with the California Watershed Council, California Bay-Delta Authority, two public scoping meetings, and two public meetings to solicit comments. The final funding lists for Proposition 50 projects, representing approximately $405 million in grant funding to more than 200 projects, was adopted by the Water Boards and the Department of Water Resources. The grant funds will leverage $3 billion in other funding through 2012.

This multi-agency effort included: Department of Water Resources, Department of Fish and Game, California Coastal Commission, State Coastal Conservancy, California Bay-Delta Authority, & the California Watershed Council.

Clean Beaches Initiative (CBI)

Bacterial contamination in beach water is a serious problem affecting public health and water quality resulting in postings and closures of California's public beaches. Urban runoff is one of the principal sources of bacterial contamination at beaches, with contaminant levels in urban runoff often exceeding state standards by several orders of magnitude.

Accomplishment: $17.26 million, invested in 20 projects, were completed which diverted urban runoff, improved the quality of water entering upstream creeks and reduced the potential for spills impacting beaches. An additional $12.44 million was allocated to 14 new CBI Projects.

Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (USTCF)

Leaking underground storage tanks seep petroleum, cleaning solvents, and other hazardous substances into soil and contaminate groundwater which can be a source of drinking water. This program provides a means for petroleum owners and operators to meet federal and State financial responsibility requirements, pay for cleanup costs from their tank operations and provide money to the Regional Water Boards and local regulatory agencies to stop leaks or to clean up abandoned sites that pose a threat to human health, safety, and the environment.

Accomplishment: 4,926 reimbursement requests were processed representing $234 million to cleanup contaminated soil and groundwater caused by leaking tanks. To date, 10,900 claims have received cleanup funding, of those, 5,244 sites were closed.

Mandatory Minimum Penalty Enforcement Initiative

Water Code section 13385 mandates minimum penalties for violations of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. In early 2008, over 7,200 MMP violations (issued between Jan. 1, 2000 and Dec. 31, 2007) had not received formal enforcement action. At minimum required assessment of $3,000 for each violation, these violations represented $21,609,000 in potentially uncollected penalties.

Accomplishment: An expedited payment process was developed to resolve MMP violations as an alternative to formal administrative civil liability (ACL) complaints. As of October 2008, expedited payment offers or ACL complaints were issued to 171 facilities representing 5,502 violations. This included 84 ACL complaints, and 87 expedited payment offers. There are 306 additional facilities with 1,701 violations which will be addressed soon. This issue is identified in *Action 1.3.1 of the Strategic Plan.*

Baseline Enforcement Report

A baseline set of data about enforcement for the Water Boards' five core regulatory programs was needed to evaluate enforcement efforts, resources, and expectations for outcomes and outputs. The Water Boards also needed to establish performance measures to evaluate enforcement effectiveness.

Accomplishment: The report established a baseline of enforcement information about enforcement resources and outputs. It identified challenges faced by the core regulatory programs and enforcement resources to support those programs. The report is identified by Action 5.1.1 of the *Strategic Plan*, and serves as a model for baseline reports for other Water Boards programs.

Construction Stormwater Pilot Enforcement Project

Impacts from construction runoff to surface waters and the environment are a key concern of the Water Boards and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). Both agencies have jurisdiction to address this widespread concern but limited resources to do so. In April 2008, staff from DFG, the State Water Board, and the Los Angeles Regional Water Board agreed to pilot a coordinated enforcement program to leverage scarce resources and coordinate agencies with overlapping jurisdictions. Sites in Los Angeles and Ventura County area were identified where teams could participate in joint inspections.

Accomplishment: The teams completed joint inspections at the six sites. Some inspections have led to formal or informal enforcement actions, while other investigations are ongoing. The teams continue to follow the progress of the joint inspections and have developed a concept for a joint enforcement "field manual" for DFG and Water Board staff.

This was a multi-agency effort including DFG and the California Ocean Protection Council. This issue is identified in *Action 7.4.1 of the Strategic Plan.*

Revamping Our Recruitment Efforts

The engineer and scientist classification hiring lists had fewer than 50 eligible recruits creating a shortage of candidates at some Regional Boards.

Accomplishment: The recruitment program was redesigned in August 2007 and launched a web-based recruitment program with a theme of "Test the Waters." Training for Water Board' recruiters was held and a "Recruitment Tool Kit" was developed to distribute at career fairs. As a result, hiring increased by 105% in 2008 compared to 2007. Water Board recruitment efforts were recognized by the Department of Personnel Administration, and a recent *Sacramento Bee* article noting that we were one of two state agencies which increased the number hires in one year.

Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)

No comprehensive assessments of the status and conditions of freshwater and estuarine habitats existed in California and the condition of beneficial uses was unknown.

Accomplishments: Five water quality assessment reports have been produced: *Ecological Condition Assessments of California's Perennial Wadeable Streams; Sediment Quality in California Bays and Estuaries; Status of Perennial Estuarine Wetlands in the State of California; Bioaccumulation of Pollutants in California Waters: a review of historic data and assessment of impacts on fishing and aquatic life;* and a *Statewide Investigation of the Role of Pyrethroid Pesticides in Sediment.*

California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) Improvements

The Water Boards have struggled to build and maintain enterprise IT applications that meet the needs of staff, management, our stakeholders and the public.

Accomplishment: The Office of Information Management & Analysis (OIMA) was created to modernize and enhance how the State and Regional Water Boards share information with each other and the public. OIMA is leading a coordinated approach to:

- Support the California Water Quality Monitoring Council, required by SB1070 (Kehoe 2006). Tasks include conducting an inventory of water quality monitoring programs, making recommendations on how to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of state monitoring, and directing the Water Board on how to improve water quality data and information available over the internet.

- Address the recommendations contained in the CIWQS External Review report.

- Redesign the CIWQS Electronic Self Monitoring Reports (eSMR) to allow NPDES permit holders to submit data electronically. Rollout to the regions is beginning with the Central Valley region.

- Update the Water Board Quality Management Plan (QMP) to address data quality from "cradle to grave," or sample collection to data assessment.

Geotracker Upgrade

GeoTracker needed to incorporate new software, links to a better geographical information system (GIS), and operate with more robust hardware.

Accomplishments: Geotracker was integrated with Google Maps as its GIS interface (operational) and is now hosted at an offsite "co-location" facility that provides 24/7 operation with backup power for power outages. During the first two days of operation at the co-location facility, 2,000 electronic submittals were uploaded by responsible parties. Submittal times took an average of 2 seconds – 100 times faster than prior to the upgrade.

Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Program Enrollment

CIWQS data shows that more than 3,600 SSO spills occur each year threatening public health and harming surface waters. . Development of an enrollment and online data reporting system are key strategies to determine the full extent of SSOs and their numbers and volumes.

Accomplishment: The SSO Program is the first in the country to comprehensively address failing sewage collection systems resulting from years of inadequate capital investment and lack of maintenance. The Water Boards made progress to reduce the number and volume of SSOs by enrolling all applicable collection systems and developing and maintaining an online data system for reporting spills and certifying components of sewer system management plans. To date, 1,100 collection systems have enrolled (representing 840 local agencies and covering 98% of the collection systems covered). Mandatory online CIWQS reporting of SSOs has dramatically increased over the past six months from 60% to well over 75%. Collaboration between Water Board resources and the external SSO Users group has dramatically increased the level of SSO and Private Lateral Sewage Discharge reporting.

Basin Plan Amendments

All Basin Plan Amendments, including TMDLs adopted as amendments, must be approved by the State Water Board, the Office of Administrative Law, and for TMDLs and surface water quality standards, US EPA, before becoming effective.

Accomplishment: The State Water Board approved 17 Basin Plan amendments. Of those amendments, 13 were TMDLs and 4 were other Basin Plan updates. Staff ensured that 27 amendments completed the approval process.

Sediment Quality Objectives

In 1989, the Legislature added provision to the California Water Code that required the State Water Board to develop sediment quality objectives for enclosed bays and estuaries. Because the processes that control pollutant bioavailability in sediment are so complex, using a single criterion, such as chemicals found in sediment, to protect and control water quality is not reliable.

Accomplishment: The State Water Board has accomplished several milestones that push California to the forefront of water quality protection. The technical framework, tools and policy of implementation are each a first of their kind to be incorporated into rule. No other state, or US EPA, has attempted to regulate water quality using multiple criteria such as chemistry, biology and toxicity. This program has far-reaching consequences as scientists working for the European Union are considering the techniques developed under this program to better assess and regulate sediment quality in European waters.

Numerous internal and external groups were involved including the technical team (SCCWRP, SFEI), Scientific Steering Committee, SQO Advisory Committee, SQO Agency Coordination Committee.

eWRIMS

The State Water Board lacked a secure and publicly accessible online system to water rights information.

Accomplishment: The Electronic Water Rights Information Management System (eWRIMS) was developed to provide secure online access to water right records. For the public users, water right information can be easily queried using different search criteria, viewed, downloaded; and mapped using a statewide GIS display. Searches by water right number, types, status, owner name, county location, source or watershed are available in a core application or using a GIS platform. Copies of all permits and licenses are linked to active records and can be downloaded.
Internally, the system includes a workflow tracking component, and can be used to calculate water right fees. EWRIMS also tracks fee billing and payment information with the State Board of Equalization. In launching the system, thousands of water right records were audited.

Numerous groups were involved in the development of eWRIMS including Information Technology, Office of the Chief Counsel, State Board of Equalization, Department of Finance, and water right stakeholders.

Bay-Delta Strategic Work plan

Due to the complexity and history of Water Board and other agency involvement in addressing the needs of the Bay-Delta, a working document was needed to more fully coordinate water quality and water rights activities; address emerging issues identified in the 2006 update to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Bay-Delta (Bay-Delta Plan), including the decline of species in the Delta; and to complement the activities and priorities identified by the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force, which was created by the Governor's Executive Order S-17-06.

Accomplishment: The Bay-Delta Strategic Work plan was developed over 6 months by the Water Boards' Bay-Delta Team with input from members of the public, stakeholders, and Board members. The Strategic Work plan directs Water Board activities and reflects the priorities for the Bay-Delta to ensure the protection of beneficial uses and the public trust, while providing for adaptive management to address emerging concerns. Highlights of the Strategic Work plan include: a comprehensive regional monitoring program for the Bay-Delta; a comprehensive review and update of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan; increased compliance and enforcement of water right requirements in the Bay-Delta; and activities to improve water use efficiency.

Salinas River Project

The groundwater in the Salinas Valley has been degraded by seawater intrusion and nitrate pollution. The State Water Board considered commencing an adjudication to address these problems, however, the State Water Board elected to encourage a local solution to these water quality problems.

Accomplishment: Changes to water rights held by Monterey County Water Resources Agency and water right approvals for the Salinas Valley Water Project are aimed at halting saltwater intrusion of Salinas Valley groundwater aquifers and to improve water quality. The water right approvals allow a rubber dam on the Salinas River to collect and divert what would be flood water for use by customers in who might otherwise pump groundwater. Completion of the final permitting process represents a 50-year collaboration between the Monterey County Water Resources Agency and the State Water Board. Limiting pumping is expected to keep enough pressure in the aquifers to stop intrusive saltwater. The Salinas Valley Water Project is expected to provide habitat enhancements in the Salinas River system for the threatened central coast Steelhead trout population.

Organizations involved in this effort include the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, stakeholders.

Yuba River Accord

In 1988, a coalition of fishery groups filed a complaint with the State Water Board regarding fishery protection and water right issues on the lower Yuba River. In June 2003, the State Water Board issued Revised Order 1641, which addressed fishery protection and water right issues involving the diversion and use of water from the Yuba River. This order amended water right permits held by Yuba County Water Agency, several irrigation districts, and other water right holders to divert water from the Lower Yuba River. Five separate challenges to the State Water Board's decision were filed in Superior Court.

Accomplishment: In May 2008, the State Water Board adopted Corrected Water Right Order WR 2008-0014 which concluded over 20 years worth of efforts by the State Water Board and others to improve flow conditions for fish on the Yuba River and allow for water transfers of up to 200,000 acre feet of water to increase water supply reliability. The order resolves most of the issues raised in litigation filed against the State Water Board in 2003. Approval of this water right order facilitates the implementation of the Lower Yuba River Accord. The Accord is a 17-party consensus agreement between fisheries agencies, water-users and environmental non-profit organizations reached after the State Water Board required higher flows to be provided on the Yuba River. The Accord provides roughly the same quantity of water as the State Water Board had required, although the timing of the flows to be provided varies somewhat from the original requirement. These flows provide additional protection to about 24 miles of salmon and steelhead habitat. Other benefits of the accord are the provision of funding for levee enhancements in Yuba County through the transfer of released water for in-Delta uses and for use by water users south of the Delta.

Strategic Plan Update: 2008 - 2012

The Water Boards' Strategic Plan, last updated in 2001, did not consistently reflect the current priorities of the Governor, Legislature or the State and Regional Water Boards.

Accomplishment: After numerous stakeholder summits, workshops and public comment periods, the State Water Board adopted its Strategic Plan Update. This update covers the next 5 years and will be informally reviewed each year to evaluate progress and make changes. The plan contains 3 environmental goals related to surface and ground water and sustainable water supplies, 1 goal for a statewide water quality plan and 3 organizational priorities to improve transparency, consistency and workforce capacity.

Automated Travel Claim Processing (CalATERS)

The travel claim process was a paper-based manual process that required nine accounting staff and took up to 6 weeks to process.

Accomplishment: The automated travel claim process is web-based, requires less paper, requires three staff and 1 week or less to process, and electronic claims cannot be lost. Direct deposit of travel expense claim payments is also offered. These efficiencies establish consistency and improve auditing and tracking capabilities.

Procurement and Contracting Participation

The state targets mandatory goals of 25 % participation for small business and 3% participation for veterans.

Accomplishment: The Procurement and Contract Units, working with the Division of Information Technology staff, developed purchasing and contracting strategies to ensure that small businesses and veteran vendors are included in solicitation processes. The effort resulted in the Water Boards shattering the mandatory targets by 200% in Small Business and nearly 400% for veterans. This was accomplished while saving the Water Board more than $20,000 through competitive lower prices. For their efforts, the Water Boards are again nominated for the Governor's State Agency Recognition Awards (SARA) sponsored by the Department of General Services.

Waste Discharge Permit Fee Collections

As of June 30, 2005, the Water Boards had $4.2 million in past due receivables, some of which dated to the 1990s.

Accomplishment: The DAS' Fee Unit took actions to improve collection efforts and clear past due receivables, including administratively terminating permits for failing to pay permit fees; contracting with an address search firm to locate up-to-date address changes; working with the Attorney General's Office and a collection firm to pursue dischargers with delinquent accounts; updating the Water Board's Enforcement Policy to reflect current collections; participating in the Franchise Tax Board's tax intercept program; receiving authorization from the Victims Compensation and Government Claims Board to write off small dollar past due amounts; and requesting a release for uncollected amounts from the State Controller's Office when all collection efforts have been exhausted. Past due receivables have been reduced to $1.1 million in June 2008, a 74% reduction since 2005.

Web Conversion

All State agencies were required to redesign their Web sites to conform to the "California State Web and Usability Standards."

Accomplishment: A reorganization of the navigation and structure of home pages, a statewide branding, and a new Google search engine were some of the changes included in the redesign project. For the Water Boards more than 16,000 web pages were converted, which included 63,000 documents (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), and more than 8,000 images.

Router Upgrades

The Water Boards needed all the routers in the 13 regional offices to be switched out with a newer model to double the current bandwidth for the services such as E-timesheets, wireless, video conferencing and webcasting. This allows communication between each regional office without having to come through Sacramento headquarters; and replace the switches that are end of life to allow a more secure environment for the network.

Accomplishments: Gutted and reinstalled the new equipment and all cables. The project was completed under the deadline and under budget.